

Message from the Classroom



Dear Families,

We will be holding a fundraiser at the Flatbread Company on Tuesday, April 21st. The benefit night will run from 5:00 PM to close at 11:30 PM. Preschool families who would like to eat together should plan on gathering between 6:00 PM and 6:30 PM. We are sending home additional information in regard to our fundraiser separately. Please help us to make this fundraiser a success by letting as many friends and acquaintances as possible know about our fundraiser. If you are not able to attend the fundraiser, we will be holding a breakfast to celebrate the event on Tuesday, April 28th. We would like to thank Izzy's mother Heather and grandmother Jane for helping us to make two banners for this event: one for our classroom and one for the Flatbread Company. We are holding a parent workshop on nutrition on Wednesday, April 8th. Information in regard to this workshop was sent home separately.

Spring weather is gradually arriving. If you are considering buying summer shoes for your child, we would like to remind families that children should wear closed toe sandals with a back strap or sneakers to school. Children are not able to run and play safely in flip flops, as they fall off of their feet. We often play outside in the water during the summer, and it is practical for children to have a pair of shoes that can get wet left at school if possible.

Reenrollment for families enrolled in the preschool programs will be on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, May 7th from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. We will distribute more information in regard to reenrollment soon. If your child will be attending preschool next year, you must reenroll your child on one of these dates. If your child is moving on to kindergarten and will be enrolled in our program only through the month of August, you do not need to reenroll your child. Please remember that if you plan on withdrawing your child from the program before the end of August, you must submit a letter in writing giving notice of the withdrawal thirty days in advance. We would also like to assist you in obtaining information in regard to after school programs. If you have any questions in regard to reenrollment or enrolling in an after school program, please speak to Margaret.

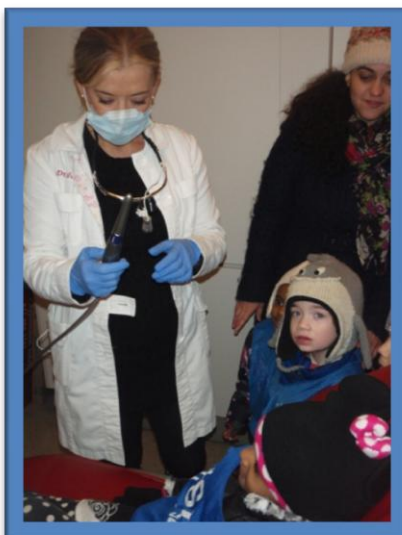
*The school will be closed on
Monday, April 20th for
Patriot's Day.*

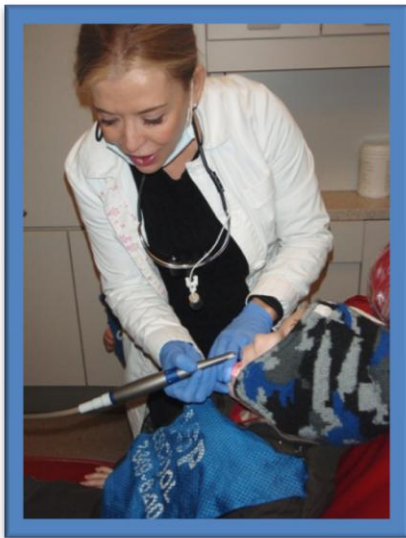
Family Breakfast

We will have a family breakfast on Tuesday, April 28th to celebrate our fundraiser. Cris Rebelo the Director of the Harrington Community School program will join us to share information in regard to after school programs.

Visiting a Dental Office and Dental Screenings

We visited the dental office of Dr. Teodora Silva and we had dental screenings in March. Dr. Silva demonstrated to us how she uses technology to examine teeth. The children could see pictures of their teeth on a video monitor. We would like to thank John's mom Michelle for helping to arrange the visit to Dr. Silva's office. It helped the children to be prepared for the screenings the following day. In relation to the dental screenings, we discussed dental hygiene and the work that dentists and dental hygienists do. A portion of our curriculum was devoted to the exploration of dentistry. We learned about some snacks that are good for our teeth and some snacks that are not good for our teeth.













The children painted with toothbrushes after the dental screenings.

Our Curriculum: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

We read the big book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom in March. As this is a fun and playful story about the alphabet, we found creative and interesting ways to teach letter recognition and formation skills. For example, we replicated the coconut tree in the book in our classroom and we made the letters for our tree. We played games in which the children identified letters and named words that begin with specific letters. We made letter cookies, played with play dough and silly putty with letter cookie cutters, and explored foam letters at the water table. The children formed letters using a variety of materials from wooden letter pieces to play foam. They also traced letters in salt.

In April, we will be reading the big book Rain. We will discuss seasonal weather changes and we will watch for signs of spring. As warmer weather slowly begins to arrive, we will explore the life cycle of ladybugs for several weeks. We will also have the opportunity to explore planting seeds in the classroom as well as outside.





The children painted leaves for the coconut tree.



The children made letters to attach to the tree.



The children made alphabet soup using foam letters.





The children made paper mache coconuts.

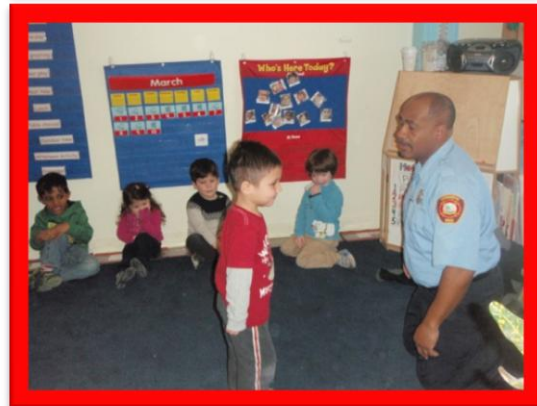




Fire Safety: Learning Stop, Drop, and Roll

Firefighter Craig Yearwood visited our classroom to teach fire safety to the children. He talked to the children about the importance of practicing fire drills and he explained to the children when they should dial 911. As children get older, they can learn to give their names on the phone as well as their street address. The children then practiced how to put out a fire on their own bodies by practicing stop, drop, and roll. Firefighter Craig instructed the children to cover their faces with their hands when they roll. We are sending home some information in regard to practicing fire safety at home. If you need additional information in regard to fire safety, many resources are available in multiple languages on the website of the Cambridge Fire Department.







Child of the Week**Madison's Special Week**

Madison's mother, father, and uncle visited the classroom to make smoothies with the children. Madison's uncle made a green smoothie, a red smoothie, and a yellow smoothie for the children to taste.



Upcoming Events

In our classroom:

Parent Workshop on Nutrition

Led by Josefine (José) Wendel, MS, RD

Cambridge Public Health Department

Wednesday, April 8th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

We will serve dinner in the classroom at 5:30 PM. Parents will move to the library at 6:00 PM for the workshop and children will remain in the classroom with teachers.

We will take a field trip to Fresh Pond on Monday, April 6th. This field trip was originally planned on March 30th, but it had to be rescheduled because of the weather. Families are welcome to join us.

We will take a field trip to the Recycling Center at the Department of Public Works on Monday, April 13th. More information on this field trip will be sent home separately. Families are welcome to join us.

Preschool Reenrollment will be on April 29th and May 7th from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. More information on reenrollment will be coming soon.

King Open Preschool Benefit Night at the Flatbread Company

Tuesday, April 21st

Please join us for a fun evening out at the Flatbread Company. We are having a benefit night at the Flatbread Company in Somerville on Tuesday, April 21st. The Flatbread Company will donate \$3.50 for each large flatbread and \$1.75 for each small flatbread sold during the event.

The benefit night will run from 5:00 PM to close at 11:30 PM. Preschool families who would like to eat together should plan on gathering between 6:00 PM and 6:30 PM.

In the community:

Early Childhood Dad Visits

"Let's Talk... It's Makes A Difference!" is a **free** program for Dads and Moms of children ages birth to 15 months living in Cambridge.

An Early Childhood Visitor will come to your home. He will show you how to build language development through every day activities. Your baby will receive new books. You will get lots of information at no cost!

Questions? Contact Luis Vasquez at 617-349-6385.

Join the Center for Families Fatherhood Text Campaign!

Receive a text once a week about fatherhood, events, and activities to do with your kids in and around Cambridge.

Step 1: Text "father" to 95577

(standard text messaging rates apply)

Step 2: Receive a confirmation text

Step 3: Keep Being A Great Dad!

**Exercise for Mothers In their First Year after Giving Birth**

Thursday, April 16, 11:30am-1:00pm, Russell Youth Community Center (West Cambridge Youth Center), 680 Huron Ave.

Postpartum workshop for mothers with babies 0-12 months (you can come with or without your baby). Learn from a physical therapist that specializes in postpartum how to do exercises that are designed to improve your physical health after birth. These exercises will help you have a strong body to take care of your baby and prevent injuries like back, wrist and shoulder pain. It will help you strengthen your pelvic floor and abdominal muscle safely. Instructor: Sybille Bosslet, Physical Therapist.

To register contact Christine at 617-349-3003 or cdoucet@cambridgema.gov.

The Center for Families has limited 1-time passes for the Museum of Science and group passes (up to 6 people) for the New England Zoo. Passes are for **participating** families. To use the passes, you must live in Cambridge and currently attend at least one of our playgroups or have come to a workshop or event hosted by the Center for Families in the last 6 months.

The passes will allow FREE admission at Museum of Science or a New England Zoo.

We can only give up to **3 passes per family** for the Museum of Science and **1 group pass per family (for up to 6 people)** for a New England Zoo.

For more information, contact Lucy at 617-349-6967 or lhernandez@cambridgema.gov.

